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L. T. ANDERSON

## CIA Influence Hurting RFE?

Stewart S. Cort is chairman of the board of Bethlehem Steel and national chairman of the Radio Free Europe Fund.

To letters which seek to persuade various people to become Radio Free Europe sponsors in their home states, Cort attaches material which includes this sentence:

"But RFE can continue to do so only with the continued assurance of private as well as government support."

IT IS important to note the "...as well as government support."

Up until about a year ago, Radio Free Europe, which beams American propaganda into Eastern Europe, had contended that it was supported only by private contributions. Then it was revealed that the CIA makes substantial payments of tax money to Radio Free Europe, and at least a few supporters were disenchanted.

I don't know how the American people would accept sustained Communist propaganda broadcasts into Mexico, for instance. But they would like it less if an agency of the Russian government were involved in the broadcasts.

RADIO FREE Europe may

duplicate the services of the U.S. Information Agency and therefore ~~therefore~~ be wasteful. But it sometimes appears to be the perfect symbol of the American belief that it is proper for the United States to adopt techniques which are roundly condemned when utilized by ideological adversaries.

The CIA was created by President Truman in his desperation to show critics he wasn't soft on communism. It commits unlawful acts in pursuance of what it believes to be the national interest and has conspired in assassinations. A former agent was involved in the Watergate affair. ✓

Some of us can understand why association with such an organization, even in relatively harmless Radio Free Europe, would be repugnant.

If I were accustomed to making suggestions to a board chairman, I would suggest that he rid Radio Free Europe of the CIA influence and then try again for state sponsors.